

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-28 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1-28 are cancelled and claims 29-52 are added. Accordingly, claims 29-52 are at issue.

I. Objection To Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4), indicating that reference character “126” in Figure 1 has been used to designate both Data Synchronization System and Network Collaboration System. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the drawings to change the Figure accordingly.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d), attached is an amended drawing Replacement Sheet depicting Figure 1 reflecting the changes proposed by the Examiner. Approval of the Examiner is requested. The proposed changes are to correct the drawings and do not constitute new matter. In particular, Figure 1 has been amended to change the name “Network Collaboration System” to “Data Synchronization System.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

II. Objection To Specification

The specification was objected to because of minor informalities. Accordingly, the specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner’s suggested changes.

III. Objection To Claims

Claims 5, 14, and 23 were rejected to because of minor informalities. These claims have been cancelled and the objection is no longer applicable.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 101 Non-Statutory Subject Matter Rejection of Claims

Claims 19-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. These claims have been cancelled and the rejection is no longer applicable.

V. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Sutter* (U.S. Patent No. 6,446,092). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Sutter does not teach every limitation of claim 29, for example. For example, *Sutter* does not teach “broadcasting a replication message from the message sending data store to the plurality of data stores.” *Sutter* does not disclose *broadcasting* of replication messages. In *Sutter*, communication between sites is pairwise communication between just two sites. (Col. 77, ll. 35-55). Nowhere in the passages cited by the Examiner is broadcasting discussed, and the term “broadcast” is not mentioned in those passages. (Office Action, p. 4). As a result, claim 29 is patentable for at least these reasons.

Claims 37 and 45 have similar limitations and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Claims 30-36, 38-44 and 46-52 depend from claims 29, 37, and 45 respectively and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

In addition, *Sutter* does not disclose a hierarchical data store. Claim 34 for example, discloses that “the receiving data store is a hierarchical replicated data store.” (See, for example, Figure 2 of the present application). *Sutter* discloses a relational database which differs from a hierarchical data store. (Col. 1, l. 11; col. 3, ll. 19-22; col. 10, l. 18). The portion of *Sutter* cited

by the Examiner shows a particular data item "Category" in a logical tree structure (Office Action, p. 5; *Sutter*, col. 61, ll. 29-37 and col. 62, ll. 45-49), but the entire relational database is not in a tree structure. A hierarchical data store's structure may allow, for example, efficient processing not realized by a relational database. Claim 34 is patentable for at least these reasons. Claims 42 and 50 have similar recitations and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Claims 35-36, 43-44 and 51-52 depend from claims 34, 42 and 50 respectively and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons.

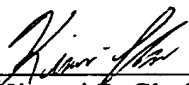
VI. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figure 1 with the attached amended drawing Replacement Sheet depicting Figure 1.